

September 3, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON CHILD HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORT PILOT PROJECT

On February 20, 2001, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Directors of Mental Health and Health Services, and the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the design and implementation of Child Health and Education Passport System (CHEPS).
2. Assist the Chief Administrative Officer's Service Integration Branch (SIB) with the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for development and implementation of CHEPS, which shall be issued within 60 days; and assist SIB in developing the Advanced Planning Document (APD).

In addition, you instructed my office to oversee the development and implementation of CHEPS and to report back to the Board every 60 days regarding its progress. This is the eighth status report on the development and implementation of the child health and education passport pilot project.

Status

The County's response to the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) letter dated July 16, 2002, has been drafted and is being reviewed by involved agencies to confirm that all issues have been appropriately addressed. A response to the State Department of Finance (DOF) letter dated July 19, 2002 is being drafted as well.

A meeting with State representatives is in the process of being scheduled to serve as a pre-meet for following-up on the ACF's offer to participate in a meeting or conference call with both State and County officials to discuss their response in more detail.

The purpose of the meetings will be to clarify the ACF's misinterpretations of our Implementation Advanced Planning Document (IAPD), to confirm the County's proposed technology solution, and to determine the timeline for submitting the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) long-term strategic technical plan and approving modifications to CWS/CMS to accommodate the Passport functionality.

In addition to these meetings, my office is supporting the efforts by our local advocates to pursue a private partnership for conducting a Passport demonstration project. We are working with County Counsel to determine the parameters for the County's involvement in such a project and exploring options for addressing concerns raised by ACF and DOF.

Our local advocates are also planning a trip to Washington D.C., to meet with United States Senator Hillary Clinton to discuss S2657 which would amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for opportunity passports and other assistance for youth in foster care and youth aging out of foster care. My Intergovernmental Relations Branch and Service Integration Branch, as well as representatives of the Chief Information Office are meeting with local advocate representatives to prepare for this meeting.

Conclusion

My staff and I are very appreciative of the efforts and support provided by our local advocates to identify a solution for providing caretakers and service providers with critical health and education information for foster children in Los Angeles County. Involved County agencies are continuing to pursue all avenues for building the capability for service providers, child caregivers, and County staff to share and access information that is essential to the safety, well-being, and survival of our children.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Alisa Drakodaidis at (213) 893-2477.

DEJ:ASD

c: Auditor-Controller
Chief Information Officer
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Health Services
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Los Angeles County Office of Education